CLAIMS

1) A distributed client/server computer network wherein the identity of at least one complex image, selected from a plurality of complex images stored by a client, is transmitted to a remote server which determines, from the identity of the or each image selected, whether the client is authorised to gain access, via the server, to a particular network resource.

2) A distributed client/server computer network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of images comprises at least one key image and at least one dummy image, access to the network resource being gained by the client by selecting the or each key image in preference to the or each dummy image.

3) A distributed client/server computer network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the order in which two or more images are selected is used to determine whether the client is authorised to gain access to the network resource.

4) A distributed client server computer network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of images are presented in successive, mutually-exclusive subsets, each subset containing a plurality of dummy images and a key image which must be selected in preference to the dummy images in its respective subset.

5) A distributed client/server computer network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of images are down-loaded from the server to the client.

6) A distributed client/server computer network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the image or images which must be selected are chosen from the plurality of images stored by the client.

7) A distributed client/server computer network as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the image or images which must be selected are chosen from a plurality of images stored by the server.

8) A distributed client/server computer system as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the or each chosen image is a key image which is down-loaded from the server to the client together with a plurality of dummy images.

9) A distributed client/server computer system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the dummy images comprise the remainder of the plurality of images from which the or each key image is chosen.

10) A distributed client/server computer system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the dummy images comprise a subset of the remainder of the plurality of images from which the or each key image is chosen.

11) A distributed client/server computer system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the dummy images comprise an alternative set of images to those from which the key image or images are chosen, but which images bear a resemblance to the key image or images.

12) A distributed client server computer system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the order in which two or more images are chosen determines the order in which the images must subsequently be selected.

13) A distributed client server computer system as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the order in which two or more images are chosen determines the order in which the images must subsequently be selected.

14) A method for providing a client of a distributed client/server computer network with controlled access, via a remote server, to a particular network resource, said method comprising the steps of providing the client with a store of complex images, selecting at least one image from the stored images and transmitting the identity of the or each selected image to the server which determines, from the identity of the or each image selected, whether the client is authorised to

~~gain access, via the server, to the network resource.~~

15) A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the step of providing the client with a store of complex images comprises down-loading the images from the server to the client.